

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /041 W

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P R 221739Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9916

UNCLAS MONROVIA 2817

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: -

SUBJECT: MONROVIA PRESS SUPPORT

FOR: DAWSON FROM FENHAGEN

1. PRINCIPAL PROBLEM MONROVIA IS QUESTION OF TRANSMISSION FACILITIES. DESPITE OPENING LAST WEEK OF SERVICE BY SATELLITE, LOCAL PHONE SERVICE CUTS OUT FREQUENTLY FOR BRIEF PERIODS. DUCOR HOTEL, FOR EXAMPLE, WHICH WILL HOUSE COOREPONDENTS AND PRESS ROOM, HAS NO PHONE SERVICE WHATSOEVER AT MOMENT BUT THERE ARE HOPES THAT SOME SERVICE WILL BE RESTORED BY NEXT WEEK BUT NO GUARANTEES. IT QUITE CLEAR, BARRING UNEXPECTED BREAKTHROUGH, THAT CORRESPONDENTS WILL DO ALL THEIR TRANSMITTING FROM TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICE TEN MINUTE-DRIVE FROM DUCOR WHERE 24-HOUR FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE TELEXES WITH OPERATORS AND 4-5 TELEPHONES. COLLECT CALLS ACCEPTED AS WELL AS RCA AND INTERNATIONAL TELEX CARDS. AMEX ACCEPTABLE FOR ALL DUCOR CHARGES.

2. TRANSPORTATION FOR ALL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING FULL-TIME STANDBY VEHICLE AND COURIER SERVICE, APPEARS SATISFACTORY.

3. DAILY LATE-EVENING PANAM FLIGHTS TO US APPEAR IDEAL WAY FOR TRANSMITTING FILM AND STILL-PIX.

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4. SINCE AFP, DPA, AND TASS ARE ONLY REGULAR COMMERCIAL WIRE

SERVICES RECEIVED HERE (REUTERS ON HIGHLY IRREGULAR BASIS), I SUGGEST AGENCY MAY WANT TO OBTAIN AP PERMISSION FOR COPYING ITS SERVICE FOR 24-HOUR PERIOD OF SECRETARY'S VISIT FOR OFFICIAL INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION ONLY. IF PERMISSION GRANTED, POST SHOULD BE ADVISED PRIORITY OF BEST FREQUENCIES.

5. WITH IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF MINEHART TOMORROW AND STEINBERG FOR VOA NEXT WEEK, PERSONNEL SITUATION SEEMS ADEQUATE. ALL DEPARTMENT PRESS REQUIREMENTS APPEAR TO BE UNDER REASONABLE CONTROL.

6. AVAILABILITY ON ARRIVAL MONROVIA OF ADVANCE TEXT MAJOR KISSINGER SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED HERE WOULD BE TREMENDOUSLY HELPFUL FOR PURPOSES TRANSCRIPTION AND TRANSMITTAL BUT OF COURSE PAO WILL BE GUIDED BY FUNSETH WISHES THIS MATTER.

7. AS YOU KNOW, AND AS TRAVELLING PRESS SHOULD RECOGNIZE, MONROVIA IS CHARACTERIZED BY FREQUENT BREAKDOWNS OF PHONE AND ELECTRICITY PLUS FACT THAT DUCOR IS UNDER PROCESS MAJOR RENOVATIONS WHICH MAY LIMIT CERTAIN AMENITIES. THERE IS NO WAY THAT POST CAN CONTROL OR PREDICT SUCH SITUATIONS AND CERTAIN AMOUNT OF LUCK MAY BE ESSENTIAL KEY TO OVERALL SUCCESSFUL PRESS SUPPORT OPERATION.
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